

12th Grade AICE English Literature Summer Reading

Students need to read the texts listed below by the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year. There will be an in-depth assessment during the first full week of school. The requirements below will be due on the **second** day of school. Be prepared and ready to work. Each requirement will count as a **test grade**. If you do not have your assignments, you will receive a zero (0/F) for each assignment not submitted. If I can answer any questions about the class or summer reading, see me before school is out for summer. You may email me with questions during the summer: salexander@corinth.k12.ms.us. I look forward to a great year with you. Have a wonderful summer!

Thanks,

Mrs. Alexander

Required Summer Reading and Assignments:

1.) *The Namesake*, Jhumpa Lahiri

- **Paperback:** 291 pages
- **Publisher:** Mariner Books; Reprint edition (September 1, 2004)
- **Language:** English
- **ISBN-10:** 0618485228
- **ISBN-13:** 978-0618485222

You can access a free PDF at the following website:

<https://willifordenglish.files.wordpress.com/2016/08/namesake-jhumpa-lahiri-pdf-download.pdf>

2.) “The Overcoat,” Nikolai Gogol

You can access a free PDF at the following website:

http://indianliterature.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/overcoat_by_nicolai_gogol.pdf

Assignments: See attached work; All assignments must be neatly HANDWRITTEN and are due in class on August 1, 2017. No exceptions!

Summer Reading Chapter Assignments for *The Namesake*

Read “About the Author” and “An Interview with Jhumpa Lahiri,” then answer the following questions.

1. After reading the passage titled “Jhumpa Lahiri” in the “About the Author” section, summarize the confounding feelings Lahiri has had with her name over the years.
2. After reading “An Interview with Jhumpa Lahiri”, explicate what Lahiri means by her interpretation of “an American story.”
3. In “An Interview with Jhumpa Lahiri”, Lahiri discusses the incongruity between a good name and a pet name. Write an objective summary about the difference between a good name and a pet name in the Indian culture according to Jhumpa Lahiri.
4. How are naming customs in American culture different from naming customs in Indian culture?
5. What are two central ideas presented in the “About the Book” and the “About the Author” sections?
6. How are Lahiri’s own life experiences connected to the central issue in the novel?

Chapter 1: As you read chapter 1, find, record, and label (with theme and page number) 10 quotes that pertain to any of the following thematic ideas:

- Cultural Differences
- Love and Marriage
- Family/Parents/Children
- Role of Men and Women in Relationships
- Power of Stories/Reading

Chapter 2-3: Choosing either Ashima, Ashoke, or Gogol, create and fill out the Facebook profile template and answer all questions fully.

Chapter 4: On a separate sheet of paper, answer the following questions completely, using and citing text for support.

1. Compare details of Gogol’s American 14th birthday party to his Bengali 14th birthday party. Which party does Ashima feel more comfortable preparing for? (pg. 72-73)
2. What is Gogol's passion at this age? What has he posted on the bulletin board in his room? (pg. 74)
3. What book does Gogol’s father give Gogol for his birthday? (pg. 74)
4. What has Gogol’s father told Gogol about his name? Where does Gogol believe his father’s limp comes from? (pg. 75)
5. Why hasn’t Ashoke told him the whole truth, especially on this very important birthday? (pg. 77)

6. Why doesn't Gogol like his name at this point in his life? (pg. 76-78) Use your words and ONE quote from these pages to support the idea that Gogol does not like his name.
7. The Ganguli family go to Calcutta, India for 8 months. After the family's return to the United States, what book does Mr. Lawson, Gogol's English III teacher, assign to the class the week after Christmas vacation? (pg. 89)
8. Write two interesting facts we learn about Nikolai Gogol's life from Mr. Lawson. (pg. 90-93)
9. You are Gogol. Imagine sitting in your English class and hearing this information about the person you are named after, Nikolai Gogol. What is your reaction? How do you feel about living the rest of your life with this name connected to your identity?
10. Explain what the following quote means: "To read the story, he believes, would mean paying tribute to his namesake, accepting it somehow" (Lahiri 92). (For example, you could explain how Gogol feels about his name, or why he does not want to read "The Overcoat," or something along these lines.)
11. Why don't Ashima and Ashoke find it strange that Gogol doesn't date in high school? (pg. 93)
12. Gogol sneaks into a college party and pretends to be a college freshman at Amherst. He meets a girl named Kim. How does he introduce himself to Kim? (pg. 95) How does this incident with Kim show that Gogol is beginning to develop a double identity? (pg. 95-96)

Chapter 5: Answer completely the following question using the last three pages of chapter 5. Use textual reference to support your answer.

Gogol's father chooses to wait to tell Gogol the true meaning of his name. How does Gogol feel about Ashoke withholding this information from him until now? Explain.

Chapters 6-7: Complete "Gogol's Conflict Chart" and all questions on the page.

Chapter 8: Complete the "Close Reading Practice Chapter 8" Chart and questions.

Chapters 9-11: As you read chapters 9-11, find, record, and label (with theme and page number) 10 quotes that pertain to the development of the following thematic ideas:

- Cultural Differences
- Love and Marriage
- Family/Parents/Children
- Role of Men and Women in Relationships
- Power of Stories/Reading

Chapter 12: Nostalgia plays a large role in the ending of the novel. Define the term *nostalgia*, then discuss how it applies to Lahiri's ending of the novel. What moments, specifically, feel nostalgic? Why? Use plenty of text to support your answer.



[View photos of me \(34\)](#)

Information

Relationship Status:

Current City:

Birthday:

Personal Information

Activities:

Interests:

About Me:

Username:
(Circle One)

Gogol

Ashima

Ashoke

5 minutes ago

Wall	Info	Photos	+
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Day ONE

Write three post updates for Ch. 2. These updates should show character development throughout Ch. 2 of *The Namesake*. (Think about how the character's thoughts, actions and reactions are growing and changing throughout the chapter.)

Update #1:

Quote used for update:

Update #2:

Quote used for update:

Update #3:

Quote used for update:

Update #4:

Quote used for update:

Write a post on someone else's wall OR choose a character that will write a post on your wall:

Character TO:

Character FROM:

Post:

Answer the following question in paragraph form using 4-5 complete sentences:

Why do you suppose Lahiri provides the description of Gogol's annaprasan, his rice ceremony, in chapter 2 on pg. 38-40? What, if any, significance might there be in Gogol's reaction to the three choices presented to him?

Day TWO

Write three post updates for Ch. 3. These updates should show character development throughout Ch. 2 of *The Namesake*. (Think about how the

character's thoughts, actions and reactions are growing and changing throughout the chapter.)

Update #1:

Quote used for update:

Update #2:

Quote used for update:

Update #3:

Quote used for update:

Update #4:

Quote used for update:

Answer the following questions in complete sentences in paragraph form:

Why does author Lahiri include the conversation between Mrs. Lapidus, Ashoke and Gogol on pg. 57-59? How does this particular scene impact the meaning of chapter 3 as a whole?

What is the significance of Sonia's behavior at her rice ceremony on pg. 62-63? What does this event suggest about the Ganguli family?

The importance of a person's name in these two chapters is an example of the big idea of "Cultural Differences." Create a thematic statement that shows the importance of a person's name within the context of the character development throughout Ch. 3.

Thematic Statement:

"'Lucky boy,' Ashoke remarks, turning the beautifully sewn pages. 'Only a few hours old and already the owner of books. 'What a difference, he thinks, from the childhood he has known. Ashima thinks the same, though for different reasons. For as grateful as she feels for the company... these acquaintances are only substitutes for the people who really ought to be

surrounding them. Without a single grandparent or parent or uncle or aunt at her side, the baby's birth, like most everything else in America, feels somehow haphazard, only half true" (Lahiri 24).

Essential Question: (Use the quote above to answer this question ON YOUR OWN PAPER). What impact does the development of your assigned character (Gogol, Ashima, or Ashoke) have on the story so far in Ch. 1-3? Support with textual evidence from the quote above.
